

ADULT HEALTH STATUS IN TENNESSEE BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (BRFSS), 2001

The BRFSS is a nationwide telephone survey of adults age 18 or older that is conducted annually by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For the 2001 Tennessee sample, collected by the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), 2,924 adults living in households were interviewed. Study sample percentages by category were as follows: 52.5% females and 47.5% males; 83% whites, 13% blacks, and 2% Hispanics. The data reported are based on weighted percentages, and are therefore able to be generalized to the Tennessee adult population living in households.

Health Access

- In 2001, 11% of adult Tennesseans reported that they had no health insurance coverage compared to 13% nationwide. Males were more likely than females to be without health insurance (14% vs. 8%). Blacks were more likely to be uninsured than whites (14% vs. 10%).
 - Persons who were age 65 years and over were least likely to be without health insurance (3%), followed by those aged 45-54 (9%), 55-65 (10%), 35-44 (12%), and 25-34 (13%). Adults between 18 and 24 years of age were most likely to be without health insurance (19%).
 - As income decreased, the lack of health insurance coverage dramatically increased. While only 5.4% of those in the highest income bracket ($\geq \$50,000$ per year) reported that they had no health insurance, 21% of those in the lowest income bracket ($< \$15,000$) reported lack of coverage.
 - The higher the educational level attained, the less likely were adults to report being without health insurance. Among college graduates, 4.6% lacked health insurance, while the prevalence increased to 12% among those who had graduated from high school, and to 15% among those who did not finish high school.

General Health Status

- Overall, 20% of Tennessee adults age 18 years and over described their general health status as fair or poor in 2001, compared to 14% nationwide. Females (21%) were more likely than males (19%) to perceive their health as fair or poor. Blacks were more likely than whites to describe their health as fair or poor (23% vs. 20%).
 - While only 4% of adults between the ages of 18 and 24 perceived their health as fair or poor, the prevalence increased to 7%, 12% and 25% for adults aged 25-34, 35-44 and 45-54, respectively. For people more than 55